



Charlotte City Council
Economic Development Committee
Summary
July 22, 2019

COMMITTEE AGENDA TOPICS

Update on BIG Policy (Action Required - VOTE)
City Training Academy (Item Deferred)
Project PIECE 2.0 (No Action Required)
Opportunity Zones Update (Item Deferred)
Charlotte Business INclusion (Item Deferred)

COMMITTEE INFORMATION

Committee Members Present: James Mitchell (Chair), Ed Driggs (Vice Chair), Julie Eiselt, Justin Harlow and Matt Newton

Additional Council Present: Braxton Winston, Tariq Bokhari

Staff Resource: Tracy Dodson, City Manager's Office

Meeting Duration: 12:30pm – 1:40pm

ATTACHMENTS

1. Agenda – July 22, 2019
2. Presentations – Business Investment Grant, PIECE 2.0

DISCUSSION HIGHLIGHTS

Chairman Mitchell called the meeting to order and asked the audience to introduce themselves. He turned the meeting over to Assistant City Manager Tracy Dodson to introduce the agenda items.

Update on Business Investment Grant (BIG) Policy

Tracy Dodson shared with the committee Economic Development's intentional ongoing efforts to formulate relationships with BIG companies relocating to Charlotte to understand their needs and to make sure they fit into Council's priorities. She also highlighted a proposed pilot-program for the city to rewrite the existing BIG policy to better align with market changes.

Lori Lencheski provided an overview of the Business Investment Grant Program and the current policy provisions. Fran West continued the presentation and discussed the city's proposal to conduct a 12-month Pilot Program to address projects that don't align with our current policy, incentivize target industries, focus on quantity and quality of jobs, create flexibility and meet the goals of Council to

address community needs. Details were provided on how the Pilot Program would work and how its success would be measured, including examples on standard and large BIG grants.

The committee asked staff to continue to address issues around upward mobility, priority locations, community benefits, creating jobs for various salary ranges and measuring equity impact on the front end.

MOTION and VOTE: Council member Newton made a motion and was seconded by Council member Driggs, to recommend the Business Investment Grant Pilot Program to the full Council at a future business meeting. (Motion passed unanimously 4:0 - Mayor Pro Tem Eiselt was absent for the vote)

Project PIECE 2.0

Kevin Dick provided the committee with an update on Project PIECE 2.0 and how it aligns with the Economic Development Strategic Plan. He talked about the inter-related areas of a Talent Development Strategy and how PIECE 2.0 would connect with the city's overall goal to merge our training efforts. To date, Project PIECE has enrolled 38 participants with 36 graduates and 22 placements. New partnerships include:

- Collaboration with Bloomberg on American Cities Climate Challenge
- Six new companies added to PIECE Corporate Advisory Council
- Transportation/Trade and Logistics Conversations
- Partnership with Charlotte Water Pipeline Academy, Blythe Construction and Holder-Foard-Leeper
- Incentives for Charlotte Housing Authority Clients

Staff will continue discussions with our partners (Goodwill, Charlotte Works, Central Piedmont Community College, Urban League of Central Carolinas and TWIN) on how to connect PIECE participants to the city's ongoing projects including BIG infrastructure, Convention Center, Airport and Blythe construction projects as well as Amazon CLT 4.

Next Meeting Date

The committee added an additional meeting to their schedule for Monday, August 19, 2019 at 11:30am in Room CH-14. Due to time constraints, the City Training Academy, Opportunity Zones and Charlotte Business INclusion agenda items were deferred to the August meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 1:40pm.